GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:661
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2003
IMPORT OF GOLD
AKHILESH SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rules regarding import of gold from foreign countries;

(b) the agency through which gold can be imported and the authority designated for according permission for such import;

(c) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation had given permission to the Union Bank of Switzerland to import gold;

(d) if so, the quantity of gold imported and the persons involved in that deal; and

(e) the decision that had been taken by the Government in regard to aforesaid gold import deal and the factual position of said deal at present?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) Import of gold is regulated in terms of the Exim Policy of the Government (Chapter 2 and 4).

(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India and Reserve Bank of India are the designated authorities which can accord permission to specified agencies for import of gold for supply to the exporters and domestic market in India. Presently there are 17 agencies which have been given permission for import of gold. Out of 17 agencies, 13 are the banks and remaining 4 are as follows:-

(i) MMTC Limited

(ii) Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation (HHEC)

(iii) State Trading Corporation (STC)

(iv) PEC Limited

Depending on demand/supply situation, imports are also arranged by MMTC Limited from other London Bullion Market Association members against Letters of Credit.

(c) to (e) Out of 214.33 tonnes of gold imported by MMTC during the three years 2000-01 to 2002-03, about 68 tonnes of gold was imported from Union Bank of Switzerland.

The investigation relating to selection of the Union Bank of Switzerland for import of gold by MMTC Ltd. and the persons involved in the transaction has been entrusted to CBI.